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Dear Parents and Carers

End of Year 8 assessments

As you may be aware, we have end of Year 8 assessments scheduled after half term so are writing to give you information about what your child should be expecting and how you can help support. The assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired and what they have learned throughout the academic year. The outcomes of these will be used to determine any gaps in students' knowledge and help us plan for intervention, where appropriate. They may also help to support decisions made regarding appropriate classes for Year 9.

The assessments will take a number of different forms with some in-class assessments, some exams in the sports hall and some evaluations of work completed over the course of the year. For most subjects, these will take place in the first week back after half-term, however, we have compiled a list of topics and some advice about what should be revised for each subject which can be found attached to this letter. While every effort will be made to stick to the timetable, there may be some alterations as assessments are held following preparation sessions so the dates may change slightly.

Please support your child to prepare for their assessments by encouraging them to spend time on revision. They should be helped to eat healthily wherever possible, stay hydrated and get enough sleep. Please help them to study by providing a quiet space for them to work or encourage them to use the library. Research suggests one of the best ways for children to revise for their subjects is retrieval practice which involves students creating notes or flashcards which they can then use to test themselves. Spacing out their revision into thirty-minute chunks of different subjects is also shown to be more effective than revising one subject for hours before moving onto the next.

Teachers will be setting revision tasks for homework between now and the start of the assessments. We understand that assessments may cause worry for some students so please remind your child to talk to their teacher, form tutor or one of us if they have any concerns.

Thank you for your support and please contact either of us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

George Wright
Head of Year 8

Katherine Walsh
Acting Deputy Head: Curriculum